



Get to the Point!

Lisa Spakowski- IBR Founder & President

Spring 2010

Illinois Birddog Rescue
 illinoisbirddogrescue.org
 Wood Dale, IL 60191
 A 501(c)(3)
 not-for-profit &
 licensed shelter by the
 Illinois Dept of Agriculture

illinoisbirddogrescue.org
 Facebook.com/ILbirddog

2010 Statistics

Dogs & Puppies rescued	23
Dogs & Puppies adopted	22
Dogs Heartworm +	7
Dogs & Puppies diagnosed with TBI's	10
Dogs Heartworm+ with TBI's	6/7
Euthanasias	0

Points of Interest

- * **Heartworm Diagnosis**— Just a bump in the road.
- * **Duckie**— A Labor of Love
- * **Lyme Disease**— awareness month & raffle.
- * **Raffles**— Check out our latest fundraising items
- * **Princess Nala**- your help is needed. (back page)

Welcome Valentine #800 and Her 9 Babies!



In early February, a friend of the rescue, Laura McElhanon, contacted Illinois Birddog Rescue about a Pointer that had a litter of puppies in a shelter in Ardmore, Ok. We scrambled to find a willing foster home as momma Valentine and her puppy Sweethearts were in danger of being put to sleep. Until transport arrangements could be made, Valentine and her 9- 2 week old puppies went directly to Laura's vet. We weren't sure all of the puppies were going to make it due to all the germs they were exposed to in the shelter and many were already struggling with upper respiratory

infections. Over the next 2 weeks, Laura went to the vet 3 times a day to feed and give medicine to all the puppies and also to take Valentine for a walk and break from nursing duties. We are sure all of Laura's dedication did in fact save their lives. Sadly, while at the vets office, initial blood work did show Valentine was infected with Rocky Mountain spotted fever (tick borne illness common in the Midwest) but it was decided that she would have to wait on her antibiotic treatment until her puppies were weaned.

On February 26, Laura loaded all the pups into a large crate and they road on the back seat of her truck while Valentine laid on a comfy pillow on the passenger seat, getting lots of scratches and head pats on the 500 mile journey. In



St. Louis, Laura handed off her little family and additional chauffeurs drove Mom and pups to their foster home in South Beloit, Illinois.

The DeWitt family dove into IBR Puppy Care 101 and so far most of the puppies have all been adopted. We are grateful to the generous caring folks like Laura, her vet and the Dewitt's for taking such amazing care of this family. This litter is so special, so unique and hopefully they will bring much joy and happiness to all their new families.



Please help IBR continue our work with a tax deductible contribution.

Heartworm Disease—Just an Adoption Bump in the Road...

While Heartworm disease is a highly preventable parasitic infection, many of the neglected and abused dogs we bring into foster care are afflicted—nearly 20%. Many dogs are euthanized in shelters after a positive diagnosis is made as it can be very expensive to treat. As

many of these dogs have also never had flea or tick prevention, most of our heartworm infected dogs also have one or more tick borne illnesses (TBI's). In 2010, 6 out of 7 of IBR's heartworm positive dogs also have tick borne illness co infections. Knowing this information ahead of time really helps treatment plans as these dogs have extremely challenged immune systems and unless careful steps are taken, could die from complications.

Because of our research into TBI's, we have come up with very good heartworm treatment protocols that allow these dogs to recover faster and hopefully with no long term side affects. The first step we take once we have a positive heartworm diagnosis is to check for tick borne co infections with serology (antibody) testing. Our test of preference is IDEXX 3716 that specifically looks for antibodies for Lyme disease, Ehrlichia and Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF). Antech offers a similar test, SA330, but it is not as sensitive to lower antibody levels for Lyme disease and RMSF. Regardless of any TBI co infections, the infected dog starts on an

antibiotic called Doxycycline that will last the duration of treatment and beyond. Next step is to start the dog on Heartguard to start killing the microfilaria (heartworm larve) so that new adult worms are prevented and so that the dog is not contagious to other dogs in the area.

While in the interim stages of heartworm prep, the dog is also treated for additional intestinal parasites and given a good quality diet to help them gain strength. Also if the dog doesn't have any additional heart complications like a murmur we spay and neuter and do a CBC/Blood Chemistry to see how the dog's body is managing.

After a month or two on doxycycline medication, killing of the adult heartworms requires two injections of Immiticide®, a cyanide-based drug. Weeks following this treatment, dogs need to rest as the dying worms break up and may cause congestion around the lungs. Doxycycline treatment continues as the dog's immune system deals with the dying worms besides the TBI co infections.

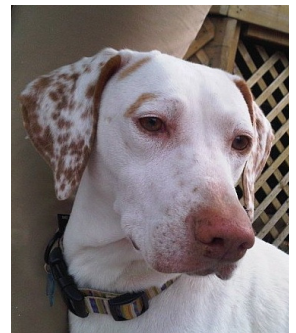
Two months after the first Tick panel is done, and every two months after that, a follow up tick panel is done besides a heartworm antigen test. Monthly Heartguard continues as does the doxycycline until the dog shows a negative tick panel. Unfortunately, due to the age of the dog—some of the TBI's may be incurable.

Typically what we see in our follow up

testing is very interesting. Usually months following treatment, once the heartworms are absorbed, a negative heartworm test will happen first. If the dog has any tick borne illness co infections while continuing with doxycycline therapy, Lyme disease antibodies become negative next and if there are further complications of Ehrlichia and RMSF, it may take many more months until the antibodies for these issues go negative in serology testing. Usually Ehrlichia first unless it is chronic and this may cause RMSF antibodies to linger as well. If these careful steps are not taken, the TBI's will remain causing potential life threatening issues for the dog later in life including terrible joint pain, arthritis, brain damage, cancer and kidney failure.

Because we take our time with these dogs, most recover and can go back to normal activity in less than two months. Many find amazing adoptive homes too. On average, a heartworm positive dog with tick borne illness co infections can cost up to \$600 to \$800 treat or more. It is only through the dedication of our foster homes that these dogs recover and are given a second chance at finding their forever home.

Praline/ HW+ with RMSF. A little bump in the road...



Duckie—a Labor of Love



Tammy Duckworth aka **Duckie** www.ibrtammy.blogspot.com is our 3-legged Tri-color senior English Setter that came into the rescue in February of 2009. Since then she has been treated for Heartworm disease, and also for Lyme disease, Ehrlichia and RMSF. Besides those terrible issues—Duckie also has mammary cancer. During her spay last winter her spleen was also removed due to a hemangioma (spleen cancer). She is an

amazing little survivor and has the most wonderful foster mom—Sarah Kate. This past year she has learned about unconditional love.

Sarah Kate is hosting a garage sale near Madison, Wisconsin in June to help offset some of Duckie's medical bills. We welcome any contributions to help the sale or come on out and meet Miss Duckie in person! Details will be on the IBR home page.

May is Lyme Disease & Co Infections Awareness Month

Tick season is upon us and they are a plague upon our families and our pets. These diseases are silent killers and often go undiagnosed in our pets

until it is too late. Thanks to Vicki Giangrasso and others afflicted with these horrible diseases, we have learned so much more about co infections.

Vicki and her Lab Rudi (below).

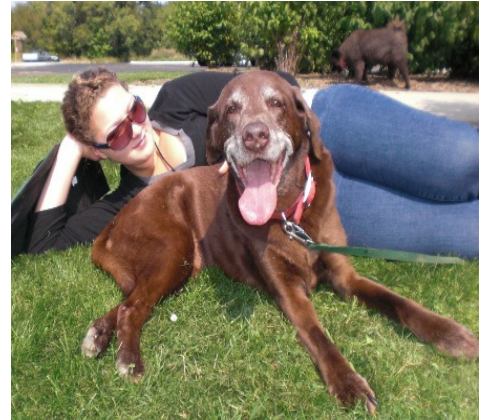


It is so hard to see our pets struggling and unable to help them. In 2009, two very special Labradors lost their battles with Lyme disease. Hunter was an amazing exuberant special Yellow Lab-

rador and friend and foster dog helper for IBR. He died from kidney failure two weeks after his Lyme disease diagnosis. We suspect he also had a co infection of Babesia. He was not yet nine years old. We miss him terribly as he was sunshine in fur.



Maggie was a beloved Chocolate Labrador that died at 12 years old from Lyme disease and most likely many other tick borne co infections. Her last year was a struggle as she had terrible arthritis and kidney issues. Both of these dogs may have lived longer pain free lives if their vets had known



more about these diseases and recommended annual tick panels. In honor of our special Lab friends and for Lyme disease & Co Infections awareness month—we are doing a Labrdor raffle starting in May. Please watch the IBR home page for more details.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Starts May 1st through May 21st. Just in time for Mother's Day! Watch the IBR home page for more details. Spring catalog can be viewed at



yankeecandlefundraising.com

IBR Raffle Fundraisers

Currently we have three fundraising raffles to help off set some of our high vetting bills. Mardi Paws, our New Orleans vacation, the Cabela's Pointer Bench and a Framed Setter print. **TICKET PRICES ARE THE FOLLOWING:** \$5 each, 10 for \$35, 35 for \$100.

Mail ticket request to with check payable to IBR, PO Box 364, Wood Dale, IL 60191



Mardi Paws winner will be picked May 5th.

Framed Setter print winner will be picked June 27th.

Pointer Bench winner will be picked July 1st.

EVENTS!!!

Orvis Meet & Greet



May 1st, Madison, IL

May 2nd, Chicago, IL

May 8th, Lombard, IL

Golf Raffle & at the
CBOE

June 11th

Contact Lisa 630-694-1359,
if you want to help out!

IBR's Infamous

Fundraising Garage Sale

Got a lot of clutter—need to Spring
clean and don't know what to do
with all your junk?

We can help you!!

This year we are having 2 Spring
Garage sales—one in Illinois and one
in Wisconsin. Details are on the IBR
home page.

Help Needed for an Old Friend- Princess Nala



Princess Nala is a Liver and White Pointer that had a litter of 13 pups (11 survived) in July of 2004 after she was pulled from a high kill shelter in Robinson, IL. Nala was diagnosed and treated for Rocky Mountain spotted fever, the winter of 2008. Due to a divorce, Nala was returned to the rescue and while in temporary foster care last summer, she escaped and came home covered in ticks. Further testing showed she

was re-infected with RMSF and also Ehrlichia, another tick borne illness. Nala struggled for months and we are doing follow up blood work now as we suspect the 8 weeks of antibiotics last summer wasn't enough as



Nala is starting to struggle again. These diseases are especially hard on our senior dogs and Ehrlichia can become chronic. Happily she is back with her original adopter, Natalie and her daughters, but she can't afford high vet bills being a single mother and follow up blood work is very expensive. We could really use some help for Princess Nala.